

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
 ICA-11 IO-13 OPIC-03 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 COME-00
 AID-05 /114 W
 -----017194 151026Z /16

R 121851Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4494
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 994

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR ECIN EINV ETEL NS US VE BR
SUBJ: CALL ON PRIME MINISTER ARRON

1. AMBASSADOR OSTRANDER MADE INITIAL CALL ON PRIME MINISTER
(AND FOREIGN MINISTER) ARRON JULY 12, FOLLOWING MEETING
WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR HEINEMANN, WHO ALSO ATTENDED
SESSION WITH ARRON. ARRON DESCRIBED SURINAM-U.S. RELATIONS
AS GOOD AND DEVELOPING WELL, ADDITING THAT SURINAM HAS SOME
THINKING TO DO ABOUT A "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH THE
U.S. HE THOUGHT THAT "WITHIN A FEW MONTHS" THE GOS WOULD
HAVE SOME POINTS TO DISCUSS WITH THE USG IN THIS REGARD.

2. AMBASSADOR INQUIRED ABOUT STATUS OF TWO PROPOSED U.S.-SURINAM
AGREEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PENDING FOR SOME TIME.
HEINEMANN STATED THAT THE PROPOSED RECIPROCAL AMATURE RADIO
OPERATORS AGREEMENT HAD BEEN FORWARDED TO THE MINISTRY
OF PUBLIC WORKS, WHICH HAD INDICATED VERBALLY THERE
ARE NO PROBLEMS. HE THOUGHT THIS AGREEMENT WOULD BE
EFFECTED "IN DUE COURSE." AS FOR THE OPIC INVESTMENT
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INCENTIVE AGREEMENT ORIGINALLY DISCUSSED OVER A YEAR
AGO, A DRAFT OF WHICH WAS PROVIDED THE MINISTRY IN
MAY OF THIS YEAR, HEINEMANN SAID THE GOS IS STUDYING
THIS QUESTION ALONG WITH REQUESTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES FOR
SIMILAR AGREEMENTS. HE EXPECTED THE GOS WOULD ASK
THE EMBASSY TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER WITHIN A FEW
WEEKS.

3. TURNING TO HIS RECENTLY COMPLETED VISITS TO VENEZUELA AND BRAZIL, ARRON DESCRIBED THEM AS PRODUCTIVE, "ESPECIALLY THE ONE TO VENEZUELA." IN ARRON'S VIEW, IF SURINAM MAKES USE OF THE POSSIBILITIES OFFERED BY VENEZUELA AND BRAZIL, HE CAN FORESEE A "TIGHT COOPERATION" BETWEEN SURINAM AND THOSE COUNTRIES. ARRON ALSO POINTED TO SURINAM'S POSITION AS PART OF SOUTH AMERICA AS WELL AS OF THE CARIBBEAN AND DESCRIBED THIS AS SURINAM'S TWO FACES."

4. ASKED ABOUT DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS, ARRON CITED TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS: (A) SHORTAGES OF SKILLED LABOR AND (B) HIGH COSTS OF TECHNOLOGY. HE SAW THE LABOR PROBLEM AS A KEY ONE IN THE EXECUTION OF GOS DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR WEST SURINAM. ARRON REGARDED THE NETHERLANDS AS THE BIGGEST POTENTIAL SOURCE OF ADDITIONAL LABOR, ESTIMATING THAT THERE ARE BETWEEN 130,000 AND 150,000 PEOPLE OF SURINAMESE ORIGIN LIVING THERE NOW. HOWEVER, CONTINUED ARRON, SURINAM IS NOT NOW IN A POSITION TO OFFER THESE PEOPLE THE SOCIAL SECURITY AND HIGH WAGES AVAILABLE TO THEM IN EUROPE.
OSTRANDER

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